Coastal Variability Analysis, Measurement, And Prediction (COVAMP)

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LONG TERM GOALS

The long-term goal is to provide representative three-dimensional, time-varying refractivity and optical property inputs for propagation models.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives are to provide a testbed to develop and evaluate urgently needed state-of-the-art measurement capabilities and accurate now- and forecasting techniques.

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APPROACH

No one instrument or model is currently available with the capability to characterize propagation conditions on the necessary spatial and temporal scales thought to be typical of the coastal regions. Therefore, sensing information from a variety of sources/instruments are to be combined with high-resolution meteorological mesoscale models to provide a better description of the propagation environment than either sensing or models alone. COVAMP is divided into 4 tasks: (1) Electrooptical Propagation Assessment in Coastal Environments (EOPACE), (2) Remote Sensing, (3) Sensing of Atmospheric Refractivity (SOAR), and (4) Refractivity Test Bed. Tasks (3) and (4) were new starts in FY99.

WORK COMPLETED

EOPACE

Over the past five years nine EOPACE IOPs have been conducted within the coastal regions of the continental U.S. to determine the impact of coastal aerosols on electrooptical propagation in a coastal environment. Information concerning the EOPACE work plan is available on the internet EOPACE home page (http://sunspot.spawar.navy.mil:80/543/eopace/eomain.html). The ninth and final EOPACE IOP, the surf aerosol generation/transport effort at Duck, N.C. (21 February – 13 March 1999), was planned, conducted, and completed. This was a cooperative effort between the Army, NRL Washington and Monterey, SSC San Diego, DREV (Canada), University of Sunderland & DERA (UK), Polish Academy of Science (Poland), NPS, NASA (Goddard, Langley, & AMES), NCAR, TNO (Holland) and the Universities of Alabama & Oregon State. The database for all the IOPs has been reduced into the standard EOPACE format and made available to all EOPACE participants via the internet. The EOPACE database is also available to others via the ONR sponsors.

During FY99-01, the principle objective of EOPACE is to analyze the data base as per the objectives outlined by the EOPACE Scientific Committee and approved by the participants (see the EOPACE home page). An extensive effort has been made to make an initial evaluation/analysis of the database for publications and presentations at technical symposiums. To date, over 100 papers have been presented at technical symposia, published in open literature, or written as Masters/PhD theses. The symposia include SPIE, the NATO Research & Technology Organization RTO meetings, AGARD, The Battlespace Atmospheric and Cloud Impact on Military Operations Conferences, IGARSS, IRIS, The European Aerosol Conferences, and URSI. During FY99 an invited session on EOPACE was held at the European Aerosol Conference (EAC), 6-10 September, 1999, Prague, Czech Republic. Six papers were presented and will appear as extended abstracts in the *Journal of Aerosol Science*. In addition, an invited paper was presented at the LASE 2000 SPIE conference and is published in the proceedings. An invited paper on the EOPACE overview and accomplishments was given at the URSI XXVIth General Assembly '99. All of these publications/papers are listed on the EOPACE home page. Eight papers have been accepted for open literature reviewed publications.

REMOTE SENSING

In the GPS Sounder project, the Wallops Island data from March 1998 were reprocessed using the fully automatic correlation process developed last year. A paper entitled "Determination of Water Level and Tides Using Interferometric Observations of GPS Signals" was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology*. This paper documents the correlation process for extracting

antenna height above water using data collected at Scripps Pier, which are calibrated to survey benchmarks and the local tide gauge, and data from the 1998 Wallops Island experiment. A paper entitled "Detection of Tropospheric Ducts Using a Ground-Based GPS Receiver" was presented at the 1999 meeting of the International Union of Geophysics and Geodesy (IUGG), Birmingham, UK (July).

SENSING OF ATMOSPHERIC REFRACTIVITY

SOAR is a new start in FY99. We procured and repaired instruments and equipment in preparation for propagation experiments. Propagation measurements were conducted at Wallops Island, VA on the SPY-1 radar at the AEGIS Combat System Center as a preliminary test of our ability to measure SPY-1 signals during USS O'KANE CSSQT at Pacific Missile Range Facility, HI in November and December 1999 in support of the Tactical Environmental Processor (TEP) testing.

REFRACTIVITY TEST BED

Penn State performed a detailed review of the spectral PBL coding, line by line. This review has uncovered a number of important inconsistencies that will be corrected in the next several months. The coding errors are of a type that did not seriously affect model performance in the marine environment (flat surface), but will have a potentially large impact over complex terrain. This is very significant because prior applications of the spectral PBL model indicated stability problems in mountainous regions. Next, a new experiment with the PSU/NCAR MM5 is under way for an eight-day period during VOCAR (Variability of Coastal Atmospheric Refractivity – an ONR project investigating VHF/UHF propagation and meteorological modeling in the southern California coastal region completed in 1996). The new experiment replaces the original Blackadar PBL model with the Penn State 1.5-order turbulent kinetic energy (TKE) PBL scheme. When this experiment is completed (4-km resolution), it will enable us to perform tests with the Refractivity Test Bed to learn the sensitivity of propagation loss estimates (made with a parabolic equation model) to alternative mesoscale boundary-layer physics. This work will be at the foundation of a future ensemble for propagation studies. A third area of work is the construction of a cross-section extractor code that is compatible with the MM5 version 2 structure. This work, now nearing completion, will enable a user to easily extract refractivity from any MM5v2 output along arbitrarily oriented cross sections and with any prescribed resolution. This is another fundamental component of a functioning RTB. Two conference papers for the 3rd AMS Conf. on Coastal Atmospheric and Ocean Predictions and Processes are being prepared to describe aspects of the work.

RESULTS

EOPACE

As a result of the EOPACE effort and the initial analysis of the extended database, the following accomplishments have been made and reported on. They are: 1) developed an aerosol-size-distribution model as a function of swell height, 2) characterized the plume structure and transport of surf generated aerosols, 3) measured and modeled the near surface transmission effects (aerosols, molecular extinction, and refraction), 4) developed direct and remote sensing techniques for describing the scaling parameters for background aerosols (AMP), 5) demonstrated the capability and limitations of bulk methods to predict scintillation effects, and 6) produced over one hundred papers, presentations, publications, MS and Ph.D. theses from the analysis of the EOPACE database.

NRL RHI Lidar Return

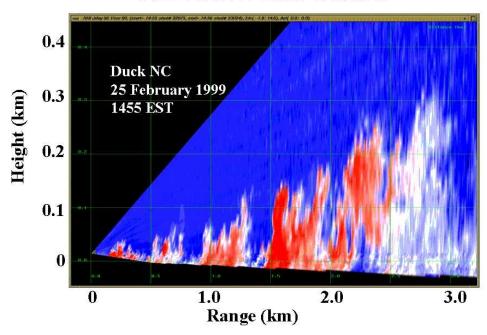


Figure 1. NRL RHI Lidar Return, Duck NC 25 February 1999.

Figure 1 is an example of the surf generated plume structure as seen by the NRL lidar at Duck NC, (IOP#9). Plumes generated on the surf line (zero range) are transported horizontally (to ranges greater than 3 km) and vertically (to heights exceeding 300 meters) as a result of the offshore wind component.

REMOTE SENSING

Results from the analysis of the reprocessed data from the Wallops'98 experiment were reported at the National Radio Science meeting held in Boulder, CO in January 1999. The results are excellent when compared to both the time consuming peak-extraction technique that was used previously and 'truth' data consisting of independent tide-gauge and local leveling measurements. The correlation process has been extended to infer profiles from the measured GPS data. Two days of observations during strong surface ducting conditions have been analyzed using this technique and the results are excellent indicating that the correlation process is a viable method to infer the refractive profile from GPS measurements.

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

The spatial and temporal data collected under this project are used to validate system performance models and provide variability statistics to EM/EO system designers. The EOPACE effort has resulted in quantifying the effects of aerosols in the variable coastal regime and, in particular, the effects of surf-generated aerosol on IR transmission within this coastal environment. EOPACE results are impacting the scientific community though invited EOPACE sessions in the NATO Sensors and Electronics Technology Panel Symposia, SPIE Symposia on "Propagation and Imaging Through the Atmosphere," the EAC European Aerosol Conference, invited papers at the LASE 2000 SPIE and URSI

GA '99 Symposia, and presentations at technical symposium such as AGARD, the BAC/BACIMO (Battlespace Atmospheric Conferences/Battlespace Atmospherics and Cloud Impact on Military Operations), IGARSS, IRIS, and organizational technical reports.

TRANSITIONS

EOPACE field experiments have provided a rich database for analysis of propagation effects, subsequent model development, and validation. Results from the GPS Sounder task have prompted an investigator from the University of Bath, Bath, UK to attempt to repeat these measurements to confirm how well tropospheric ducts can be detected.

RELATED PROJECTS

This project is closely related to the synoptic and mesoscale numerical analysis and prediction projects pursued by NRL Monterey, the EM Propagation and EO Propagation projects, and the Remote Refractivity Sensing project under ONR 321SI. Tri- service coordination is conducted under the Technology Area Review and Assessment.

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